

C O N C O R D I A U N I V E R S I T Y

Faculty of Engineering

Minutes of Meeting No. 76.6

of the

Engineering Faculty Council

held

Friday, 17 September 1976

Present: J. Clair Callaghan (Chairman); Professors Cerny, Douglass, Fazio, Feher, Habashi, Heaps, Joly, Krakow, Lindsay, Pekau, Ramamurthy, Russell, Sankar, Swamy, Xistris; G. Milton (Registrar's representative); Prof. J.C. Giguere (Secretary)

Visitors: Professors Lang, Opala, Zielinski

Motion
76-6-1

1. Council unanimously adopted a motion to adopt the published agenda.

Motion
76-6-2

2. Council unanimously adopted a motion to approve the minutes of meeting 76-4.

Motion
76-6-3

3. Council unanimously adopted a motion to approve the minutes of meeting 76-5.

4. The Chairman welcomed new members to Council.

5. The Chairman noted that Prof. Lindsay had attended a meeting of the ASEE Liberal Studies Division. Prof. Lindsay is attempting to organize a seminar on "liberal studies" in engineering, and will in due course give Council a progress report.

6. Scholarships

The Chairman noted that scholarships had been awarded to two students in the Faculty:

Joyce Kendall - General Motors Scholarship

Andrew Kokus - Black-Clawson-Kennedy Scholarship

Letters of congratulation have been sent to both students.

7. Director of Institutional Research

The Chairman noted that this position had been established under the Vice-Rector (Administration) and that Prof.

Hamblin had been appointed as the first Director.

8. Reports from Departments and Committees of Council

The following Departments and Committees tabled reports:

- Civil Engineering (Doc. EFC 76-6-1)
- Electrical Engineering (Doc. EFC 76-6-2)
- Mechanical Engineering (Doc. EFC 76-6-3)

with the following corrections to the latter document:

page 3, under Research Funding, the amounts \$278,220 and \$155,000 should read \$202,970 and \$120,750 respectively.

- EUSC (Doc. EFC 76-6-4)

with the following additions:

2.5 English Language Proficiency: Current policy will be reviewed.

2.6 Building Engineering: EUSC will co-operate in the study of any proposed new programme or option in this area.

- EGSC (Doc. EFC 76-6-5)

with the following changes:

2.1 To read: To study and recommend to Council on the introduction of a new doctoral area in Building Engineering.

2.2 delete "Review of admission.....area".

- Executive Committee (Doc. EFC 76-6-6)
- Simulation Committee (Doc. EFC 76-6-7)
- Machine Shop Committee (Doc. EFC 76-6-8)

Prof. Heaps made a short verbal presentation of activities in the Computer Science Department.

The Library Committee is to provide a report of that Committee's activities in time for the next meeting of Council.

9. Enrolments

The Assistant Dean made a short report on enrolments for 1976/77. The enrolment in N1 is substantially higher than had been anticipated, due largely to a significant

increase in the number of CEGEP graduates entering the Faculty. Although reliable figures are not yet available for graduate level registration, it appears that there has been an increase in the number of full-time students enrolled in the Faculty's graduate programmes.

10. Concordia Grading System

The Secretary noted that he had received a draft of a document prepared by the Registrar and the Vice-Rector (Academic) which summarizes Senate's decisions with respect to grading. The final version of the document will be circulated to Council. Copies of the draft have been forwarded to members of EUSC in connection with that committee's work on academic regulations.

11. Academic Regulations

The Assistant Dean informed Council that EUSC would be presenting its recommendations on the matter at the October meeting.

12. Building Studies at the undergraduate level

The Chairman drew Council's attention to Doc. EFC 76-6-9 in which are set out four possible models for Building Studies at the undergraduate level. It was agreed that model four seemed most worthy of further exploration. To this end, the Civil Engineering Department will, in consultation with the Assistant Dean, EUSC, and possibly the Executive Committee, set out the educational goals of an option in building studies within the accredited programme of Civil Engineering, as well as propose a coherent set of offerings designed to meet these objectives.

13. Proficiency in the English language

The Chairman welcomed Ms B. Opala and invited her to comment on Doc. EFC 76-6-10 which sets out the results of the English Language Proficiency Test administered during the winter 1976 academic term. Ms Opala outlined the procedures used for the test, and noted that the full report had been made available last May. She also noted that several other universities in Canada had reported similar findings and, indeed, that the low level of literacy amongst university students seemed to be a continent-wide phenomenon.

During the ensuing discussion, it was noted that

- the problem existed at graduate as well as the undergraduate level
- the question was currently being considered by a sub-

committee of UCCC

- the question had been debated by the meeting of Chairmen and Heads of Engineering Departments in June 1976
- it would be difficult to solve the problem within the tight schedule of a professional engineering programme
- that a single 13-week course was insufficient to overcome the deficiencies of many students.

Suggestions made for means to improve the level of English proficiency of engineering students included:

- the establishment of a diagnostic test to be required of all applicants to the University
- the recommendation or requirement that students deficient in basic English enrol in a course in basic English
- the addition of a course in technical writing as part of the engineering programme
- the possibility of using laboratory reports as the tool for teaching English. For example, the instructor of a course could personally grade at least one laboratory report
- the possibility of using the summer technical report and courses in Social Aspects of Engineering as tools for improving students' command of English.

It was agreed to ask the EUSC to study the problem and make recommendations to EFC.

14. Undergraduate Curriculum Changes

The Assistant Dean presented EUSC's recommendations (Doc. EFC 76-6-11) with the following corrections:

- item 2.3 should read:

Add Engr N-571 as an elective course in the power and Computer Engineering options

- item 2.4 should read:

Delete Comp N-421 and add Elec N-531, 541, 562 as electives in the Systems option

- under section 4, make the following changes to new

numbers

old numbernew number

Engr N-461

Engr C-362

Engr N-473

Mech C-373

Motion
76-6-4

15. Council unanimously adopted a motion to recommend to Senate the curriculum changes contained in Doc. EFC 76-6-11 as amended.

16. Appointments to BGS

The Secretary informed Council that it was being asked to make two appointments to BGS: one to replace Prof. Heaps, who was going on sabbatical, and could therefore not complete the last year of his three-year term, and one to fill the slot on BGS normally occupied by the Chairman of EGSC. (This year's Chairman, Prof. Giguere, is already a member of BGS).

Motion
76-6-5

17. Council unanimously agreed that the member elected to replace Prof. Heaps would serve a three-year term.

Motion
76-6-6

18. Council defeated a motion (6 for - 7 against) to appoint the replacement for the Chairman of EGSC for a two-year term.

Motion
76-6-7

19. Council adopted a motion to appoint the replacement for the Chairman of EGSC for a one-year term (1 against).

20. It was agreed that the Dean's office would initiate the normal procedure to elect members.

21. Membership of EFC

The Chairman drew Council's attention to Doc. EFC 76-6-12 recommending a reconsideration of the ex officio membership of Council.

Motion
76-6-8

22. Council defeated a motion (4 for - 6 against) to include the Director, Engineering Faculty Personnel and Resources, Loyola Campus, as an ex officio member of Council.

23. Dr. Fazio noted that a Civil Engineering member of Council was likely to resign. He will consult the Secretary on procedures to be followed in order to appoint a new member.

24. Course numbering system

The Secretary tabled, for information, the UCCC report on course numbering which was approved by Senate at its May meeting (Doc. EFC 76-6-13).

25. Ad Hoc Committee on Cost of Metrication

Prof. Lindsay presented the report (Doc. EFC 76-6-14).

Motion
76-6-9

26. Council unanimously adopted a motion to receive Doc. EFC 76-6-14.

27. Proposal for a Pass/Fail System

The Secretary presented the proposal for a pass/fail system (Doc. EFC 76-6-15) which had been referred to Council for comment. Prof. Douglass noted that EUSC recommended against its adoption.

Motion
76-6-10

28. Council unanimously adopted a motion to advise Senate that the EFC recommends that the proposed pass/fail system be not approved for application within the B.Eng. programme.

29. Proposed Fringe Benefits Package

Prof. Xistris noted that he would be willing, in co-operation with the Engineering representative on CUFA, to investigate the possibility of holding an information session for faculty on the proposed fringe benefits package.

30. Microfiche readers

In response to a question concerning the recommendation of the Library Committee that microfiche readers be ordered, the Chairman noted that he had not yet been advised by the Library Committee on the matter. The Secretary will send a reminder to the Library Committee.

31. Future of Science at Concordia

The Chairman informed Council that this item would be on the agenda of the October meeting. Members were invited to study Docs. 76-6-16 and 17 in preparation for this meeting.